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OCTOBER 8, 1890.

Issued Every Week.

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# Farmer

AND

NEW FARM.

OUR 27TH YEAR.

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With what promptness Ayer's Cherry Pectoral stops a distressing cough, soothes the irritated membrane, and induces refreshing sleep. As an anodyne—for soreness of the lungs, especially when hemorrhage or other consumptive symptoms have manifested themselves—and also as an expectorant, Ayer's Cherry Pectoral is unsurpassed.

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"For twenty years, during autumn and winter, I had a bad cough. Last October it was much worse, being attended with hemorrhage of the lungs, so that part of the time, I had to keep my bed. Being advised to try Ayer's Cherry Pectoral, I began to use it, and by the middle of March, having taken about four bottles of the medicine, my cough was cured."—Henry Kesser, Millington, Tenn.

"Six years ago, while a traveling salesman, I was suffering from lung trouble. For months I was unable to sleep in any restful posture. I had frequent coughing and choking spells, and was often compelled to seek the open air for relief. I was induced to try Ayer's Cherry Pectoral, which immediately helped me. Its continued use has entirely cured me, and I believe has saved my life."—Alonzo P. Daggett, Smyrna Mills, Me.

"Ayer's Cherry Pectoral cured my wife of a severe lung affection, which we supposed to be quick consumption. We now regard this medicine as a household necessity."—W. H. Strickle, Terre Haute, Ind.

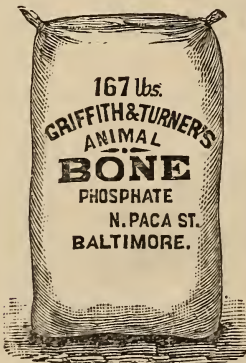
"In April last I was afflicted with a bad cough, and felt uneasy about it, fearing it might terminate in consumption. I tried several kinds of cough remedies; but nothing seemed to help me until I procured a bottle of Ayer's Cherry Pectoral, which gave me relief at once, and by using less than two bottles, I was able to resume my work."—Jarvis Day. "I hereby certify that the above statement is true in every particular."—M. Shaw, Hartland, N. B.

"Twenty years ago I was troubled with a disease of the lungs. Doctors afforded no relief, and said that I could not live many months. I began to use Ayer's Cherry Pectoral, and, before I had finished one bottle, found it was helping me. I continued to take the medicine until was cured. I believe Ayer's Cherry Pectoral saved my life."—Samuel Griggs, Waukegan,

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## AND NEW FARM.

Vol. XXVII. BALTIMORE, October 8, 1890.

No. 41.

For the Maryland Farmer.

### OUR NEW FARM, XVI.

#### GETTING STOCK.

We found considerable inconvenience about our milk supply. It was not always handy when we wanted it and was necessarily somewhat limited. But a cow was a very serious undertaking for us, in our wish not to spend any more than we could help, and my good wife and I visited our bureau drawer and took out our pocket book and purse and counted up our ready cash.

We found in bills \$43.00 and in silver \$4.32.

Then I said :

"Now, wife, such a cow as we want would cost about thirty dollars, I suppose, and that would leave us only \$17.32. What do you think?"

She answered :

"Our money seems to be slipping away pretty fast; but I want the milk very much, and I think it will save more than that in the end. The west end lot will be a good pasture, and Lizzie says she can make butter and Charley can milk."

But I said :

"That west end lot is poor pasture at best, and then I am afraid we shall want the money before much will come in."

Then she answered :

"You have made arrangements in the city, and we will soon have some bushels of peas to send in, and then our sweet corn will soon be along and you think that will pay well. I might get a few hundred cucumbers, also. At any rate, be looking around and I think we might risk it."

To this I replied :

"There will be no trouble of course; for we have that money in the bank——"

Wife immediately interrupted me :

"Don't mention that—that is sacred. We must get along just as if we didn't have only this \$47."

I said:

"All right. I think Mr. Merritt has a nice cow he would sell; for I heard him say the other day he wanted a few dollars and would like to sell a cow. I'll see him."

That evening, after work, I went over to Mr. Camden to talk with him about a cow. He said:

"Now, Mr. Green, I don't want to sell; in fact I want to buy two cows myself. I would have to have a large price for any of my cows. But if I was you I would get a cow."

Then I told him:

"I understand Mr. Merritt has a cow to sell; but I don't know enough about cows to tell whether it is what I want or not."

He answered:

"It is a first rate cow—part Holstein and part Jersey—and gives a big lot of pretty good milk; but I have not offered to buy it, for I think he will want forty or fifty dollars for it and I can't afford that."

Then I said:

"Well, it won't do any harm to go and see him."

I went back home and talked the matter all over with my wife and concluded to go in the morning and see Mr. Merritt. We got out our money again and counted it over; but could not make only \$47.32 out of it.

The next morning I put \$30. in my pocket, although I little expected to use it and walked over to Mr. Merritt's—about half a mile north west of us, across lots; or about three quarters of a mile by the road. I found him at home and after passing the time of day and talking of crops and the weather, I said:

"I came over this morning, Mr. Merritt,

because I heard you had a cow to sell, and I suppose I ought to have one."

He said:

"Yes, Mr. Green, a cow's a good thing to have, and I've got a good cow, and I wouldn't sell her only I've got to have fifteen dollars next week more than I've got to meet a payment."

Then I said:

"Well now, how much do you want for her?" for we had walked out so that I could see her, which was of little consequence in fact as I was going wholly by what Mr. Camden had said about the cow.

He said:

"I am asking \$40. for her, and I can get that by waiting a little for the money. Now if you can pay \$15. down and the balance in three months I'll take \$35. for her."

I acknowledge my heart began immediately to thump at a pretty rapid rate as I heard this; for I had expected to have to pay it all at once. Three months to pay the other twenty dollars would be all right and help out our funds amazingly. I was deeply thinking as we walked back towards the house. At last I said:

"Mr. Merritt, I'll pay you twenty dollars now, and the other fifteen on the first day of September."

This was five dollars more than he had asked in cash and his eyes brightened as he stretched out his hand to me and said:

"The cow is yours."

So we shook hands heartily and we went in and he made out a bill of his "Holstein-Jersey cow, Jessie," and credited me with twenty dollars on it, and handed it to me. I told him I would send Charley over for her as soon as I got home. But he seemed to be feeling much pleased, and said his Bob would drive it over now. My purchase seemed to have taken a burden off from his mind, and it certainly had taken one off from mine; so we had a merry

talk. He told a number of anecdotes which we laughed over, and shook hands again heartily when we parted.

On my arrival at home I put the bill of our cow, Jennie, before my wife, and she looked up through her spectacles, and said:

"You paid only twenty, now—and fifteen next September! That's good. Now we can put back ten into the pocket book."

So we put back the ten and she went down to watch the road, calling to our daughter to come to the window for Jennie was coming!

Then daughter said:

"Who is Jennie? And where is she coming?"

Wife said:

"Why Jennie is our cow. Father has just bought her and she is coming down the road."

Now I had a married son in the city of Baltimore and before I came down to the farm we had very many talks about sheep; and he had frequently said if he had a farm he should go largely into sheep raising. He believed there was "big money" in it.

Dr. Bell one day remarked, also, that he thought sheep were as profitable as any stock on the farm. Putting these things together, I had kept this on my mind.

One morning I received a letter, from our old city butcher who supplied us with mutton, containing this proposition: He went on to say that he had heard I had gone to farming and had not yet decided what stock to keep, and I now put down his words:

"If you will go into raising mutton and lambs, I will send you forty head of sheep to start with, which you are to keep good, and I will take at market prices all the increase you have to sell and one half shall be yours and the other half mine."

I thought the wording of this was rather blind and I studied over it some time before I could make it out. It came upon me quite suddenly and I thought it a good commencement for one who had no capital to put into stock himself. I finally understood it in this way: He would send forty and I must always have at least forty. Then all the increase would be divided equally between us, only he would buy all I should have to sell of my half. I would get one half for feeding and taking care of the flock.

I talked this matter over with my wife and my girl and they thought well of it. It would not require very much work, we thought. Besides it would be just what that west end lot was good for. Suddenly I thought, it will require considerable fencing to keep them safely, and my heart fell. But the next morning I started for the city.

I soon found my butcher friend, and he said he had written forty, but he would give as many as I chose to take. And when I told him about the fencing, he said he would advance the money for barbed wire fencing and agree to take his pay in lambs from my share. I then and there made the bargain.

The next day two dozen rolls of barbed wire came down to us and for a week we were very busy in putting up the fence, or adding to that already up, around the north western half of the farm. In the course of two weeks we had 60 sheep in this lot. First 20 came, then 10 came, and then 30, which completed the flock.

From this field we had a lane leading to the barn yard and shed, and we soon taught the sheep to come up to this shed at night, where they were penned securely from the depredations of dogs. I soon learned to hate the sight of a dog around my premises.

To alarm us I put a number of bells on



my sheep, and the barbed wire was only six inches apart, and only once or twice did we have occasion in the day time to rush to that field on account of dogs; but we were all somewhat anxious.

We have followed up this business. It has not always been all rose color. At times we have felt a little discouraged, for we had to pay considerable on the fencing, but it has been a good success in the end. We have bought out the original stock of the butcher, and while we stick by him as one of our best friends, we are doing a good business in sheep and lambs.

(*To be continued next week.*)

#### NATURE'S SILENCE.

There is not a moment of day or night when the outer world is absolutely still. Even in the mysterious hush before a tempest there are vague sibilent noises, mysterious murmurs, that belong to the air, or arise from the ground. On the quietest day the elements are instinct with power. Nature may seem a quiet workshop, devoid of trip-hammers and buzz saws; but, if you know how to listen, you will hear the tick, tick, of wonderful forces. It was fabled of an old Scandinavian god that so fine was his ear he could hear the wool grow on the sheep's back and the buds unfold on the beech-trees and the grass-blades softly pushing their way up through the loosened clod. He was not a supernatural, only a highly developed being. It is possible for us, in a degree, to become like unto him, if we cultivate our listening powers and strive to catch the message that Nature is constantly sending in vain to our blunt ears.

The many voices of the outer world blend together in a low refrain that has the effect of melody. It is this refrain of Nature that soothes and rests the being

rather than her silence. Awake in the night, when absolute stillness seems to reign for a moment, it is frightful, and the thought comes that the clock of the universe has run down. Have you ever, when at the seashore, at midnight been startled out of sleep by the unaccustomed silence? The great waves have ceased to boom upon the beach. There is an awful stillness instead of the thunder of the rollers. Fright seizes you, and you ask: Has the bed of the sea gone dry? Are the watery caves yawning vacant? Are the monsters of the deep revealed, as in Shakspeare's vision? No: It is only the moon, which, in the ending of her majestic movement, has dropped the waves to a lower level. It is ebb tide. There has come a pause in the mighty movement to which we sank to rest, and it fills the mind with terror.

Silence in Nature is only the subdued, full-breathed harmony of the outer world. We repose upon it; we find in it rest and consolation, though we know not what it is that has healed us. This beating breast on which we lean persistently rises and falls to singing waters, murmuring breezes, the flutter of leaves, the rustle of grasses, the blended voices of insects, the notes of birds,—all the sounds of animal life. It makes a soft flowing vesture of music that wraps us round, that gives us physical and spiritual health. These vague sounds of Nature that accent her solitudes set the imagination at work, stir the fund of poetry latent in every breast, touch the heart with the long memories of childhood, are the lisps of that universal spirit of diffused goodness and joy by which the child learns to live.

We speak of the silence of autumn when the birds are flying south, or have flown, when the insect tribes are dead, when the fields are reaped, when the gardens are blackened by frost, when the late indian summer dreams like a drugged godless



along the hills, and the waters twinkle through smoke and haze. But listen, and the voices are there: the cricket chirps in the stubble; the home-staying birds flutter in the bushes; the brown leaf curls at the edges, detaches itself from the branch, and flutters down to join the rustling under the tree. Even in days of dying, when the forests are hectic, and the ground hues run pale or glow among the grasses, there is a chant of life. It cries with a million little airy tongues, "This is change, not death!"

So we walk circled with harmonies, listening to small voices that teach and preach and sing, not suspecting that the earth is a musical instrument,—a harp with millions of strings,—scornful, perhaps, of the ancient delusion of the music of the spheres, until, on some calm days, when we have communed with ourselves, we awake and say. Why, this is God! He speaks with tongues. The beautiful laws are all in operation, and they chant as they labor. The silence is replete with his voice. Not a seed falls or floats lazily in the air that does not tell us something of the Creator's design. How lovely it all is! we say, with new-found rapture. Here we have been calling out for God, asking him to reveal himself; and, behold! he is all about us, and even dust and dead leaves and snow crystal and the singing ice as it breaks on the pond, and the leaf bud hidden in its waxy sheath at the end of the twig, and the germs in the fecund clod, can all speak to us of him, as well as the stars in their courses, the calm rising and settings of planets, and the vision of great red dawns when we fancy he is coming between the wings of the cherubim.

When we think of what has impressed us most in Nature, it is not, as the prophet says, the tempest or the whirlwind, but the awed hush that lets the still, small

voices be heard, the moon rising on autumn evenings when the breezes whisper low and cunningly, as if to say. "We must not speak aloud in the audience-chamber of the queen," when the tinkling voice of the brook is heard that has been silent all day, and the furtive motions of birds and animals in the black shadows as the rays of new-born light quiver upon the dewy spaces, and the orb of night detaches herself from a low hill, and sails out into the sky, with thin clouds huddling away to let it pass, and catching an amber glow upon their faces. Or we think of twilights full of glimmering peace, warm, brown shadows with a heart of fire in the placid river, trees rising straight and still against the stainless crystal of the sky, where along the evening star in its whitebloom, the creeping breath from sedge and bottom-lands, the twitter of a night-bird to its mate on the nest, make depth upon depth of repose.—*Christian Register.*

#### THE WEEDS.

Again we call attention to the destruction of weeds. They may be only two or three inches high; but if neglected they will seed your ground abundantly. Ordinarily they may be two feet high before they show signs of blossom or seed; but late in the fall two or three inches are enough. Nature seems to provide for the continuance of vegetation as surely as for the propagation of higher life. It will therefore be of the greatest value to your labors next year if you can do a mere trifle now. "A stitch in time saves nine" is as true as gospel in this case. Passing over the ground and destroying the little weeds this fall, will save the hardest of hard work next year when the myriads of seeds would otherwise spring into life to vex you. Ground without weeds gives the best of crops—weedy ground gives poor crops of everything but weeds.

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Entered as second class matter at Baltimore, Md.

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**PASSED INTO GOOD HANDS.**

We have sold The MARYLAND FARMER to a young man, energetic and talented, used to farm life, well acquainted with journalism, a practical printer, also, and surrounded by influences to ensure him a great success. We are old, and we gladly escape the cares and extensive work which have sorely tried us in the past, laying these on younger shoulders.

Mr. BARRETT C. CATLIN, a name associated with Maryland history, is our successor.

We bespeak for him a glad and enthusiastic welcome, assured that he will prove himself worthy of it. For six years we have visited you monthly or weekly with such words as we thought would be for

the general good. We retire now from the Agricultural field, except as we may contribute occasionally to these columns.— Good wishes, a hearty God speed, we bestow upon our young friend.

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**INCREASE OF PRICES**

**BECAUSE OF THE NEW TARIFF.**

One of the finest comments on the increase which the new tariff will impose upon the laboring people and on farmers was exhibited in the windows of Oehm's Acme Hall Clothing Establishment. There was posted conspicuously the notice that after Oct. 6th (the day when the new tariff took effect) all clothing would increase in price from ten to twenty per cent.

The high priced goods not so large an increase as the low priced ones, was the result. Workingmen's \$10.00 suits are increased \$2.00. Heavy \$15.00 suits are increased \$3.00. But fine suits, for \$40.00 or \$60.00, no increase—the actual increase coming out of the workmen, or poor women, who manufacture the material.

Scarcely a paper can be taken up which does not contain some notice of the increase in the prices of articles consumed by the mechanics and by the farmers. We have been opposed to this increase of the cost from the beginning. We have looked upon it as an imposition which is only equalled by the enormous extravagance of national legislation which requires it. But if the laws which have made over half a million occupy the position of government paupers requires this, then let it be placed upon the millionaires, who have hitherto had full swing in stealing the substance of the mechanics and farmers through their influence upon legislation. Theory is one thing and practi-



cal results are another. We do not consider theory of much value, however plausible the presentation of it, when the practical results are so completely opposed to it. People who carry a large stock of goods which consumers must purchase add thousands of dollars to their profits and will not complain. It is the mechanic who barely gets enough to keep his family in food and clothing, and the farmer who is forced to see his stock dwindle, his buildings go to decay and his family half clothed, who are the sufferers.

We must look to the Alliance to stop this, and we urge farmers everywhere to arouse themselves to the necessity of united action, to restore the government to an economical administration of our affairs, cutting off the vast extravagances and returning to the true principles of a government for the whole people.

We shall rejoice in the defeat of every candidate who is in favor of these high taxes; who is instrumental in piling additional prices upon everything used by us; who laughs at us, because we do not propose to pay 20 per cent more than heretofore, on everything we wear or use in our homes or on our farms; who is ready to cater to the millionaires who control now every avenue to legislation and own the legislators body and soul. We do not want any such men to make our laws in the future.

Farmers, you know these men whenever they are placed before you for office. Do not be deceived by their glib words. The practical test is present every day of your lives now, and do not let their plausible arguments rule you.

Men should take more care and surmount more and greater difficulties to attend public worship than they would to attend their own personal secular concerns.

#### When to Cut Timber.

The best time to cut timber is when the tree is filled with the gum and oil that have formed after the sap has ceased flowing and when the natural forces of the tree are at rest. This term may be said to be between the 1st of September and the 1st of February, according to climate and locality. December and January are favorite months in many sections. Trees when felled in the winter have less sap to be evaporated by seasoning, whether used for lumber or fire wood, and are sooner brought into the right condition for use. For durability timber should have sufficient age, and its strength as well as its lasting qualities depend not only on its maturity, but also on the part of the tree from which it is taken. The least durable and the weakest part of a tree is the sap wood next the bark. Young trees have an excess of sap wood, and timber from such will not be as durable, especially in exposed positions, as the wood of mature trees. The strength of wood is much increased by the process of seasoning. While this is going on wrapping should be guarded against; otherwise its value for most purposes will be greatly impaired.

#### Texas Pork.

Texas is likely to take a high rank as a pork producing state. Many hogs have always been kept there; of course the food for maintaining them is easy of production. The climate has been against pork packing. It is too warm for proper killing and curing. Of late years large refrigerators have been, and are being, built in the larger Texas towns where hogs can be safely slaughtered and cured in any season of the year. Texas bacon is a settled fact. With the aid of the refrigerator Texas can supply her own "meat." In former years she has supplied the animals from which this meat was made.—Rural New Yorker.

#### Chloroforming Animals.

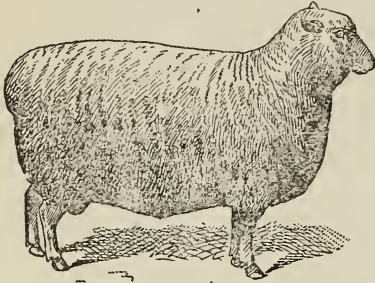
Chloroforming animals has long been practiced in the United States in connection with operations. The Buenos Ayres Standard notices the chloroforming of an imported bull during the removal of a large tumor from the throat. The tumor removed weighed twenty-four ounces. Ten ounces of chloroform and six ounces of ether were administered to the animal.



## SOUTHDOWN SHEEP.

**The Breed That Excels in the Production of Juicy and Finely Marbled Mutton.**

The Southdowns stand at the head of the short wools as the Leicesters do of the long wools. They naturally take this precedence, being one of the oldest



A SOUTHDOWN PRIZE WINNER.

English breeds. But the Southdowns have more than a long pedigree to recommend them, excelling as they do in the quality and close texture of their mutton. It is claimed by English breeders that all modern downs owe more or less their present excellence to having partaken of the Southdown's blood. American breeders appear to accept this claim, judging from the considerable demand there is in this country for Southdowns to cross on Merinos as well as other sheep.

As popularly bred the Southdown has short legs with broad loins, heavy quarters, well sprung ribs and generally compact frame. In the cut is shown a fine Southdown wether, some twenty months old, and a prize winner at late English shows.

**Things Told About Artificial Incubators.**

A writer in *Ohio Farmer* makes the statement that "artificial incubation has made such an advance in the last ten years that when profit is desired it is the only proper method. The proper breeds are important. For a broiler we want a quick growing fowl, plump and juicy. The eggs must be fertile, especially in cold weather. The best are those with Spanish blood. The Leghorn crossed on the Wyandotte, Plymouth Rock or Brahma produces good results, but we find if small breeds are crossed, which are naturally active, the broilers will do just as well. A Hamburg-Leghorn cross will produce eggs which will hatch well and produce running carcases, weigh-

ing two to three pounds to the pair at ten to twelve weeks.

In *Country Gentleman* occurs the following from a New Hampshire correspondent: "I am opposed to the use of incubators, but am not bigoted on the subject. It is simply business with me. If my experience and observation taught me that I could do better with incubators I would buy several at once; but the more I see them in use, and the chickens they produce, the less I think of them. For ducks' eggs they may do, for the reason that a duck's egg is almost sure to hatch under almost any circumstances."

A correspondent in *American Cultivator* says concerning chicks artificially hatched: "There is a difference between these and natural chicks. As a rule the plumage and fancy points of the fowls are the same, but the incubator hatched chickens are not as strong built and stalwart as those raised by the mother."

**The Care of Meadows.**

A Rural New Yorker correspondent writes: On all thin parts of the meadow a good coating of barn yard manure will help to insure a good crop next season. I believe that manure pays fully as well as a top dressing for meadows as it does for wheat or rye. The farmer is very foolish who allows a single load of manure to remain in his yard when he can apply it on his grass land and receive his pay the next season in good merchantable hay. Even coarse straw will help wonderfully to protect the roots of the grass during the winter, if scattered evenly. This litter not only protects during the winter but acts as a mulch during dry spells in the spring. Such treatment of the meadows needs only to be practiced to be duly appreciated.

**Autumn in the Apiary**

The following directions for fall work among the bees, given by Quinby, are worthy of observation:

Prepare the bees for winter and see that all stocks are in condition to rear young bees for winter.

Supply all deficiencies in queens.

Secure the fall yield of honey in combs for future use or have new combs built for guides in boxes.

Prepare honey for market. The development of a home trade should be borne in mind at all times. A good local market is an important item with all

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producers. Reserve a sufficient amount of honey when shipping to meet such demands.

Place bees in winter quarters early.

#### Potatoes Worthy of Trial.

Of ninety-three varieties of potatoes tested at the Indiana Experiment station the following varieties seem to be especially worthy of recommendation and further trial: Beauty of Sheba, Breeze, Dictator, Dakota Red, Early Sunrise, Early King, Gold Flake, Great Eastern, Garfield, New Queen, Rose's New Giant, Rural New Yorker No. 2, Sunmit.

#### Agricultural Items.

The practice of drilling corn for grain crops is on the increase throughout the country.

Butter is defined by the oleomargarine law as the food product "which is made exclusively from milk or cream, or both, with or without common salt, and with or without additional coloring matter."

Most practical farmers are now agreed that level culture, at least during the latter part of the season, is much the best for the corn crop.

Experienced stock growers of Alabama and Mississippi claim that it costs but little more to raise a mule than a calf and that the former brings more than double the money.

The standard of size in horse breeding has advanced materially.

#### Experiment in Wheat Culture.

The results gained at the Illinois station in experiments appear to prove beyond question that at the earlier stages of seed formation a considerable transfer of material from the straw to the kernel may occur after cutting if the wheat is placed in conditions similar to the shocking and capping of bound sheaves. Whether or not, at the later stages of seed growth, there is an increase of weight in the kernels after the plant is cut is not proved by these experiments. So far as getting the maximum yield of wheat is concerned, the results indicate that it is better to allow the wheat to get nearly if not entirely ripe, and that, if it be necessary to cut at a much greener stage, shocking and capping would probably be beneficial.

#### SOCIAL ETIQUETTE.

##### Country House Visiting for Pleasure—A Hint to Youthful Guests.

There are degrees in visiting, from very smart country house parties to parties not so smart, and parties that are not at all smart, in which the guests are additions to the family circle, if not acquisitions, and visits that are paid to host and hostess in the truest sense of the word, in which the one visitor is asked for a long visit, and not for a three or four days, but for a ten days' one. Thus numerous are the visits paid.

Visitors are asked that they may enjoy the beauty of the country and the company of their friends and all the amusements that the country offers in the way of tennis, cricket, boating, bazars, flower shows, picnics and an occasional dance. These visits are perhaps the pleasantest of any. "Dress" is not all important, but in reality of very little importance; the ladies do not dress "at" each other. There is little time for donning tea gowns, and the dress put on in the morning is pretty enough and good enough to be worn until dinner, when it is exchanged for something equally simple which does not resemble a ball gown in the very least. To live in the open air all day is the great secret of enjoyment, and to spend as little time in the house as possible. To have tea out of doors, to read, to work, to play tennis, to row on the river, are all pleasant ways of passing the time.

Young ladies are frequently asked on a visit of two or three weeks without their parents. When there are daughters in the house the mistress never finds the presence of her visitor a tax; but it is often otherwise when a young lady allows her hostess to feel that she is dependent upon her for amusement during the whole of the day, and has not tact enough to relieve her of her presence during the calls of her most intimate friends.

#### Milk for Fowls.

Since milk is the only article of food known to contain within itself all the elements necessary to the perfection of growth and vigor in an animal, it is not strange that it should be found to be one of the very best egg producing materials that can be supplied to poultry. Given two flocks of fowls, and treatment, location and original stock being equal in all respects save one, says The Poultry World, and it will be found that those having skimmed milk as a portion of their daily food or drink will give more eggs weekly and for a longer term of weeks than those whose treatment is exactly the same with this single exception.

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## A BENEFICIAL INSECT.

## All About the Dragon Fly, Its Habits and Its Uses.

Few insects have received more popular attention than the dragon flies, as is shown by the common names they have received. We call them dragon flies,



DRAGON FLY, ADULT, AND LARVÆ.

devil's darning needles, snake feeders, mosquito hawks and various other names. The English sometimes term them horse stingers, and the Scotch flying adders. The French speak of them as demoiselles or ladies, while the Germans have called them "virgins of the water." These flies undergo certain changes during their life. The adults deposit eggs usually just beneath the surface of the water on some reed or rubbish. These eggs soon hatch into small larvæ, which live in the water, preying upon other animals, and gradually growing in size.

When one of these dragon fly larvæ becomes a pupa it remains active and does not differ much from its larval form, moving about as vigorously as before. In a short time after it has become a pupa, however, it ascends some reed or ledge until it is above the water level, and its skin splits along the back, the adult dragon fly crawls out, suns itself as its wings expand and finally flies away.

These dragon flies rank high among the classes of beneficial insects. Both in their young and adult stages they destroy large numbers of mosquitos and similar pests, and they doubtless render much more service to man than they are generally given credit for, according to Popular Gardening, authority for the foregoing.

#### Wintering Bees.

A correspondent in The American Bee Journal has the following to say on wintering bees:

I have the bees all ready for winter before the nights get so cold and frosty as to candy the honey in the hive. We winter our bees in an underground cellar.

The Maryland Farmer Purchasing Agency has experts in every department of purchasing—send to them.

40 feet long, 7 feet high and 6 feet wide, with a 6x7 inch ventilator near each end; also three well fitting doors, which leave two dead air spaces between the bees and the extremely cold weather, with the mercury often 40 degs. below zero in this northern climate. When you put the bees into the cellar remove the cover and entrance blocks, leaving only the quilt over the hive. Put two blocks (2x2 inches and the length of the hive) under the hive, then put two more on top, on which to put another hive, and so on until they are five tiers high. One essential thing is a half inch entrance, full width of the hive, and left open; by so doing there will be plenty of upward and lower ventilation, and the bees will not smother or lack in any way for pure air. The bottom hive should not be less than ten inches from the bottom of the cellar, to allow the foul air, if any, to settle below it and pass off through the underground drain, which should consist of not less than two inch tiling. Bees placed in a cellar as I have described, with a temperature ranging from 40 to 45 degs., will winter as safely as by any other method, chaff hive not excepted. The temperature can easily be regulated by a slide in each ventilator—not a toboggan slide, but a sliding door.

#### Here and There.

There appears to be an increased disposition on the part of eastern farmers to use commercial fertilizers for potatoes. They claim a better yield with fair, smooth skinned tubers than when employing stable manure.

There is as yet no satisfactory machine for cutting cornstalks in the field. Self-binding reapers are used in some localities to cut the small varieties of corn, but for large, fully matured sorts these do not work well.

The New York Pigeon association will hold its show Feb. 4-10, 1891.

Connecticut growers claim a heavy yield of tobacco.

In New York city the demand is all the while increasing for bottled milk.

Georgia's state agent says that the cow pea grows steadily in favor as a renovating and forage crop, and the area is increasing yearly.

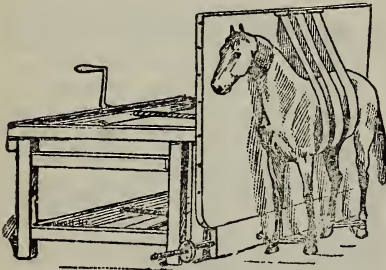
The hop crop of the country at large is decidedly short, especially in New York, which state promises about 75 per cent. of an average crop.



**A Horse on a Surgical Table—How a Spavin Was Cured by the Cutting of a Tendon That Covered a Bony Tumor.**

A novel operation in veterinary surgery was performed at Cincinnati, O., recently, by Dr. L. A. Anderson. Strapped to an operating table a 16-hand draught horse, weighing 1,200 pounds, was operated on successfully for spavin by cutting a tendon that covered a bony tumor.

An interesting feature of the operation was the table and its appliances by which this large, powerful horse was so secured that during the operation, which lasted only eight minutes, the animal moved not a hair's breadth. The table is made of solid oak, and rests on a stout platform about two feet high. By means of a crank operating on cogs the table on which the animal lies is made to move slowly upward and downward. In other words, the horse, led alongside of the table in an upright position, is se-



GETTING THE HORSE READY.

curely fastened to it, and then the horse and table lowered until the animal is lying securely fastened. Previous to the operation the spavin on the right hind foot caused such pain that the horse tried hard to go on three feet. A hood made of padded canvas was placed over the animal's head, completely blinding its sight.

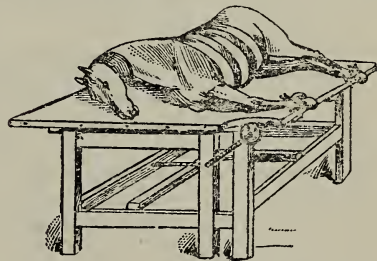
The animal was then led alongside of the table in an upright position, and a stout inch rope fastened to the front of the table was held around the animal's legs by an attendant. The three four inch wide surcingles were then strapped securely, tying the animal alongside of the table. The head was then fastened to the table, and the crank turned and the table slowly lowered to a horizontal position. The animal at first struggled,

but once upon the table lay quietly on its right side. Then the feet were securely fastened with stout straps to the table, the additional precaution being used of tying the left hind foot with an inch rope.

Everything was now ready for the operation, which is known as cuneon tenotomy, and was first proposed by the veterinary, Professor Lafosse, to abolish lameness arising from bone spavin. It consists in division of the internal or cuneon branch of the tendon of the flexor metatarsi. The tendon that gave the trouble is a stout one, a branch of another tendon. It starts from the anterior portion of the hock and runs across diagonally downward to where the curb generally occurs.

The doctor first made an incision an inch long, and a probe pointed instrument was inserted and the tendon raised and cut, which gave instant relief. The tendon lay in a groove and was readily found. The blood was then sponged off with cold water, and two or three stitches taken with silk sutures and tied. There was a bony tumor found growing under the tendon, making the tension on the tendon so great that the animal could not put its foot to the ground.

The table was now put back in a perpendicular position, the horse's feet first having been unstrapped, and as his feet touched the ground the girths that bound the animal to the table simultane-



THE HORSE LAID OUT FOR THE OPERATION.

ously loosed, and the horse stood on its feet. The hood was removed and the animal led to a stall, limping a little. In five minutes it was eating hay as contented as if nothing had happened. In an hour the animal was led for a short walk up and down the alley, and the improvement was apparent. This was the first successful operation of the kind ever made, according to The Cincinnati Enquirer, from which the foregoing cuts and description are a reprint.

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**Clover After Clover.**

The common remark among farmers that clover will not succeed sown on a clover sod dates from the time when wheat was thus sown in alternate years with clover between. It was common in those days to plow under a growth of clover, which made the soil too light and porous for clover seeding next spring. It also generally made too heavy a growth of grain for best success of the clover catch. It is the unfavorable mechanical condition of soil that a clover sod makes, rather than any exhaustion by the clover itself, which hinders the new catch. When the winter is rainy, so as to thoroughly pack the soil, clover seed succeeds well, though even then it may be injured by drought before the clover has become thoroughly established. But a heavy sod plowed just before wheat sowing often does not break down until the subsequent summer heats cause it to rot, and the changes it makes at this time in the surface soil soon destroy the newly sown clover seeds.—American Cultivator.

**Here and There.**

Shetland ponies bred small for children's use are in increased demand.

New Mexico has recently organized an agricultural college.

It has been discovered that a strong, flexible fiber can be secured from hop vines, and that it can be manufactured into a most excellent paper.

An English syndicate has purchased a large tract of land in Burlington and Ocean counties, N. J., for the purpose of growing cranberries on an extensive scale.

Kansas farmers have suffered serious losses from drought.

The culls and old hens which have ceased to be profitable should be fattened for market as early as possible to give a better chance for the selected birds to grow.

**Fertilizers for Wheat.**

The best fertilizers for wheat are potash and bone flour, applied when the wheat is sown and nitrogen in some form in the spring. The bone contains some slowly soluble nitrogen and phosphoric acid which will insure a sufficient fall growth. Nitrogen in any soluble form, if applied in the fall, would be of no service in the spring, says Rural New Yorker.

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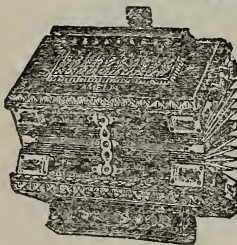
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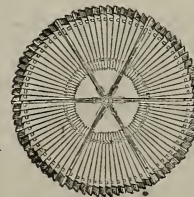
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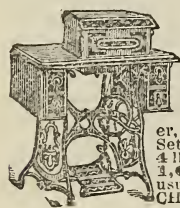
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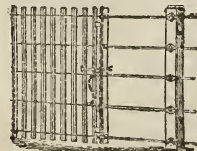
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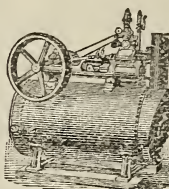
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